



## News Release

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### **Workers at Lynn's York Metal Casket Assembly eligible for federal aid**

INDIANAPOLIS (June 23, 2006) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of York Metal Casket Assembly are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

The TAA program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with the Department of Labor and it must be approved before benefits can be released. An investigation began after a petition was filed on January 27, 2006.

The Department of Labor investigation revealed that the decline in employment at York Metal Casket Assembly is related to a shift in plant production of caskets to a country that is a party to a free trade agreement with the United States. Consequently, workers at the Lynn plant qualified for TAA benefits and the findings were certified on February 13, 2006. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after January 25, 2005 through February 13, 2008 is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at the Lynn facility. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Eligible parties may contact the Richmond WorkOne at (765) 962-8591, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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